

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry "documentary" days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. The rules that make it impossible to enforce equal airtime until after a violation need to be reconsidered. The current state just invites abuse -- such as airing one side's story just before an election when there will be no time to give equal time to the other side.

Thank you.